

MAY 20 1962

BUREAUCRACY AT ITS WORST

U-2 Report Discredited In Revealing New Book

THE U-2 AFFAIR. By David Wise and Thomas B. Reed
(Random House; \$4.95.)

Two Washington reporters have collaborated in an outstanding job to piece together the complicated mosaic of the U-2 affair. Whether they have found all the pieces of the mosaic cannot be known, of course, because it is the job of intelligence officers to keep their operations hidden.

Reading this book as a reporter who himself followed the story of Francis Gary Powers' ill-fated flight with more than casual interest, this reviewer found much that was new to him.

It had been apparent that the incredible fiasco of the cover story was an example of sloppy, dishonest bureaucracy at its worst, but how sloppy could not be known without the details these two reporters had dug out and collected in an relatively orderly sequence.

What U-2 Saw

There is also new material on the summit failure, CIA's dogged attempts to reach Powers during his imprisonment and Capt. Powers' lone-wolf role in Moscow. The authors also have some reports of what the U-2 saw in the four years Americans flew unmolested above the Soviet Union's most sensitive areas.

Ironically, the denials and pooh-poohing of this book, which must be expected as inevitable, are completely discredited in advance by the two reports: the brutal destruction of the Germanaut's own aircraft, and

They can't rather more

historical significance to the failure of the summit conference, however, than realism would seem to warrant. True, the U-2 debacle can be blamed for the 1960 summit conference abort. But this very likely meant only the writing of the cipher a few days or weeks earlier than if Capt. Powers had not fallen out of the sky.

What's Up Now?

One last thought: Since Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy state carefully printed out that Americans will not fly U-2s over the Soviet Union, could it be that one or more of our allies are even not trading a new generation of missile clubs over the Iron Curtain? Or that U-2s are flying over China, Cuba, etc. Their trouble spots where victory is not so far off hand?

—M.R. VOCA